

ECHO IRELAND

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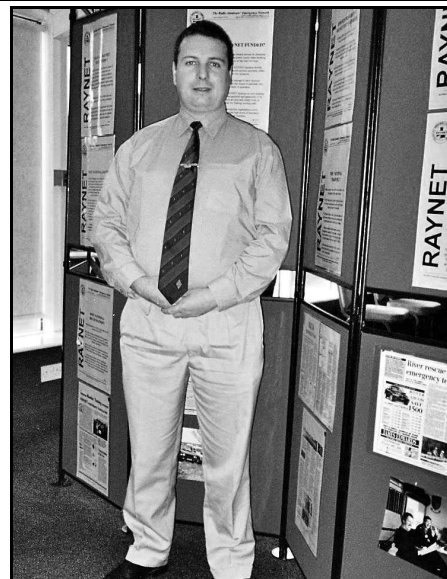
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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
January 23rd**

We wish all
experimenters,
shortwave listeners,
their families and
friends a very
happy Christmas
and a prosperous
and healthy
New Year..



Stephen EI6JA

Stephen represented the Amateur Radio Emergency Network at the recent Raynet convention in the UK

Picture G4MWO

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Annual General Meeting

Sunday March 6th

**Annual Dinner
on**

Saturday March 5th

**Being held in conjunction with
the
Limerick Rally
on
March 6th 2004.**

Hosted by Limerick Radio Club

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News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1045	144.275	SSB	Albert EI6AS
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC
Wicklow	1130	7.068	SSB (as Gaeilge)	Paddy EI7GK
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Sean EI5GH, Brendan EI8IB
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT, Gerry EI5HJ
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.500		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	John EI8JA, Robbie EI8FZB



From the Editor.....

I have been fairly active in the hobby over the past decade and have had the pleasure of meeting and discussing all aspects of the hobby with many experimenters.

One of the most frequent topics in recent years is the claim that our hobby is being dumbed down and standards are dropping.

The question is, what standards are we talking about? There is no doubt that our hobby is reflecting the major changes in society where instant gratification is now the norm.

The path into the hobby has changed and maybe the hobby itself has changed. Very few new entrants now come in from the shortwave listening area and most of them never even listened on the amateur bands before getting a licence. Unfortunately it shows. The tendency nowadays seems to be to grab a microphone and start talking. It worries me that so few now read magazines and books. How can one progress without the necessary reference books. Too many old wives tales are propagated on repeaters etc. and quickly become facts in some peoples minds.

Everybody has to start somewhere and assuming a genuine interest in radio, a few basic reference books are essential in every shack.

No one should be without either the RSGB or ARRL operating manual and the RSGB or ARRL handbooks.

These two publications will provide the necessary information on any aspect of the hobby, be it operating knowledge or technical questions.

We are not expected to be technicians or engineers but there is no excuse for ignorance.

We should always remember that we are part of a technical hobby and there are many other avenues open to anyone whose only interest is in talking into a microphone.

A simple example is calling into a net. Do take the time to listen and find out what it is all about. If you call in without a clue as to what is happening you will disrupt everyone else and also look a right wally.

However, enjoy the hobby and have a look at the modes you are not currently using. There's lots of fun out there!

73 de EI4BZ

A Message from the President of IRTS

Once again we have reached that time of year when we tend to look back and review how things have gone in the previous twelve months. We rejoice in our victories, weep over our failures and wonder about what might have been. As the newly elected President of the Society (well, all of nine months), I am not immune from the review process, and looking back, I wonder what has been achieved.

2003 has been a momentous year in Amateur Radio, principally because in many countries, including EI, we saw the removal of the mandatory Morse requirement for access to the HF Bands. At one fell swoop, Irish B licensees, together with their equivalents in many other countries were granted the privilege of the HF bands without passing a test in Morse Code. This arose following a decision made at the WRC'03 Conference in Geneva. This move has not met with universal satisfaction in this country, or indeed anywhere else, and quite a few EIs have been heard expressing their unhappiness with the situation. However, let us be very clear about where we stand. A decision has been made in an international forum. That decision either has been, or will be, implemented by the vast bulk of national licensing authorities. It will not be reversed and having had "our say" we must now unite behind it and welcome to the HF Bands those of our colleagues with B licenses or their equivalent, who wish to use them. Morse is not about to go away so why not try to teach the newcomers to love the code rather than fear it.



Talking about the WRC'03 Conference reminds me that an extended 7 MHz Band will be available to us in a few years. This is a very welcome prospect. It's just a pity that we have to wait so long to access it!

Relations with ComReg, the licensing authority, improved somewhat during the year but more remains to be done. Despite consistent pressure from IRTS (and from many individual members) it was not possible to hold a Theory Exam in 2003. As we go to press, it appears that an exam will be held in January 2004 and an announcement to this effect is anticipated in the near future. I must apologise to all those who have been waiting for a Theory Exam and assure you that IRTS is doing its utmost to have you accommodated. Apologies also to the teachers, who having prepared their students for an exam, have suffered the frustration of there being none.

The Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources has inflicted experiments in Power Line Transmission on the Amateur Community beginning at the end of 2003. Make no

mistake about it, this is a system that has the potential to put many of us off the air. Experience in other countries has shown it to be a system that is inefficient, costly and most unfriendly to other users of the radio spectrum. IRTS will be "keeping an eye" on the experiments and then will make whatever representations that become necessary to protect our interests.

We lost some of our colleagues during the year. I always feel that the term Silent Key expresses very well the sad fact that one of our colleagues has departed this life. I extend my sympathies to all those who lost loved ones during the year. I know that Christmas is a time of great sadness for them.

I send my sincere thanks to all those who helped in any way to keep Amateur Radio alive and well in EI during the year. There are many who work quietly in the background – in the clubs, teaching Theory and Morse, sorting QSL cards and doing the myriad of other jobs necessary in any voluntary body. We need to spread the load a bit and volunteers are always welcome, so why not make it your New Year's resolution to help out a bit more?

Finally let me wish everybody in Amateur Radio, their families and friends a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Beannachtai na Nollag agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise dibh go leir.

Best 73,
Sean Donelan EI4GK



Project Star Reach (3B9C)

Bulletin No.1



The Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA) is pleased to announce Project Star Reach, a large-scale DXpedition to Rodrigues Island, 3B9. FSDXA, closely linked to CDXC (Chiltern DX Club), the UK DX Foundation, is the group which brought you the very successful 9M0C DXpedition to the Spratly Islands in February 1998 and the subsequent record-breaking D68C DXpedition to the Comoros in February 2001. Yaesu have kindly agreed to be Principal Sponsor, and will be providing ten complete state-of-art stations consisting of FT-1000MP MkV Field transceivers and Quadra VL-1000 linears.

The centrepiece of Project Star Reach will be a major DXpedition to Rodrigues Island, to take place next March/April. However, the project also encompasses a range of other activities both before and after the DXpedition itself, including magazine articles showing newcomers to HF how to work DX. The DXpedition will also be a test-bed for StarLog and StarServer, a software system designed specifically to facilitate major DXpeditions of this sort. The callsign 3B9C has already been assigned, and the plan is for an operation encompassing over three weeks of operation, including four weekends. The first members of the team will arrive in 3B9 on Tuesday 16th March 2004, and expect to spend the first two to three days installing antennas and equipment. Operations will commence before the weekend. Station breakdown will start on Monday 12th April, though operations may continue for a further day or two after that.

There are two main and several subsidiary objectives:

- To provide the possibility for every amateur radio station in the world - even those running QRP or a very simple antenna - to make at least one contact with 3B9C; and
- To enable top DXers to put 3B9C in their log on as many bands and modes as possible. It should be possible for top DXers active on all bands and on all main modes to work 3B9C on at least 20 band / mode slots!

Subsidiary aims and objectives:

- To use the DXpedition as a focus for increasing interest in HF amateur radio, especially among those new to HF, through magazine articles, presentations, an awards programme with categories for both new and experienced operators and clubs, etc.
- To use the skills of team members to help the islanders of Rodrigues through various activities currently in the planning stages
- To test the StarSoftware server-based DXpedition software in the most demanding of environments, with a view to making it available to other DXpeditions in the years to come.
- To encourage activity on all bands and modes at a time when decreasing sunspots may be causing some operators to lose interest in HF and 6m.
- To be one of the first major DXpeditions to link fully with the ARRL's "Logbook of the World" initiative.
- By setting and maintaining high standards of operation, to

uphold and demonstrate the highest standards of DXing practice.

- To encourage amateurs to explore new bands and modes, by being readily workable on all bands and modes over an extended period (one of the pleasant surprises with D68C was the way in which many HF operators made their first forays on to PSK31 and on to 10m FM especially to work the DXpedition). Specialist modes will include AO-40, EME and SSTV.

The last major activity from Rodrigues Island was the 3B9R DXpedition of 1999, which made some 47,000 QSOs. Since then this semi-rare DX entity has been activated almost exclusively by its one resident amateur, Robert 3B9FR. With the best will in the world, one individual cannot meet the world's needs for a DXCC entity, and 3B9 has worked its way back up the "Most Wanted" lists.



Paul EI5DI, a member of the 3B9C team.

For those who are into statistics, Rodrigues stands at number 81 in the 2002 world-wide listing of 'Most-Wanted' DXCC entities, published by the DX Magazine. However, for specific areas of the world and specific modes, it ranks much higher, for example 27th in Europe for SSB, and between 30th and 50th in the central regions of the USA on both SSB and CW. It also ranks high on the RTTY "Wanted" lists. It should also be borne in mind that many of the higher-ranked countries in the 2002 survey have since been the target of substantial DXpeditions, likely to have brought them below Rodrigues in the rankings.

In any case, our experience with D68C suggests that not too much credence should be given to the "Most-Wanted" lists, as only a statistically small number of DXers respond to the annual questionnaires. These tend to be those DXers on or near the Honor Roll, whereas in 'real life' very many more DXers will call a DXpedition than would be imagined from its ranking on the "Most Wanted" lists.

3B9C will build on the experiences gained during the D68C and 9M0C operations (and distilled into the successful book "DXpeditioning Behind the Scenes" - see below), to give both seasoned DXers and "Little Pistols" a wide range of opportunities to work Rodrigues on many bands and modes. The date of the DXpedition has been chosen with propagation forecasts in mind, and spans the spring equinox. Good propagation to all major areas is expected on all bands from LF through 10 metres.

3B9C will have up to fifteen high-power HF stations active

simultaneously when band conditions allow. Activities will encompass SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31 and, as appropriate, FM. There will also be satellite activity and possible EME. Large monoband antennas will be used on all bands, including a full-size two-element Yagi for 30m. There will be capability for working simultaneously on more than one mode on 10, 15, 20 and 80 metres when these bands are open. On LF we will use two phased pairs of Titanex verticals on 80m, one pair for CW and one for SSB. 40m will rely on our tried and tested 4-square array. 160m operation will utilise the well-known Titanex verticals, with various loops and Beverages for receive. Full details of the equipment and antennas will be given in a subsequent bulletin. Some 3 tonnes of equipment will be sea-freighted by container to 3B9 ahead of the DXpedition to allow the team to put on an operation of this scale.

By operating over four weekends, the team expects to be able to work through the demand for Rodrigues to the point where even the most modestly equipped stations will have a good chance of contacts on several bands. The extended period of operation also opens up the opportunity for a 3B9C entry in the CQ WPX SSB Contest and, perhaps, other contest events taking place during that period.

The multinational team is still being formed, but already includes many well-known callsigns, as well as some up-and-coming DXpedition operators. So far, team members include DL7AKC (Jens), EI5DI (Paul), G0MRF (Dave), G0OPB (Tony), G3NUG (Neville), G3BJ (Don), G3IZD (Ivan), G3NHL (Chris), G3RAU (Derek), G3SED (Mike), G3WGV (John), G3WKL (John), G3XTT (Don), G4FRE/WW2R (Dave), G4JKS (Hilary), G4KIU (Nigel), G4TSH (Justin), G4VXE (Tim), GU4YOX (Bob), JA1RJU (Kazu), JH4RHF (Jun), KF7E (Jim), M0DXR (Mark), M0GMT (Daniel), N7CQQ (John), NK7C (Pat), W3EF (Maury).

We are seeking contributions from sponsors to help defray the very significant logistics costs of this DXpedition. Donations in sterling may be sent to the Five Star DXers Association Treasurer, John Linford, G3WGV, Pennine View, Sleagill, Cumbria CA10 3HD, England (e-mail: g3wgv@aol.com): please make cheques payable to the "Five Star Expedition Fund". Donations in other currencies may be made by various means, the relevant account details being as follows:

- IBAN Number : IBAN GB14 BARC 2068 7950 8302 16
- SWIFTBIC Number : BARCGB22
- Bank Name : Barclays Bank
- Bank Address : PO Box 44, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1YA
- Sort code : 20-68-79
- Account Name : The Five Star Expedition Fund
- Account Number : 50830216

Donations may also be made by PayPal via the Web page or to FSDXA@g3wgv.com (you will need to have a PayPal account of your own to be able to use this facility).

Donations in US dollars may be sent to Wes Lamboley W3WL, 690 Hunterhill Way, Roswell, GA 300075, USA (e-mail: BLamboley@aol.com). Please make checks payable to "Wesley Lamboley".

Donations in Japanese yen may be sent to Taizo Arakawa JA3AER, 6-2-12 Mikanodai, Kawachinagano, Osaka 586-0044, Japan (e-mail: ja3aer@beach.ocn.ne.jp). All donations will be acknowledged.

The logos of all DX clubs etc which have helped to sponsor 3B9C will be shown on the 3B9C QSL card (subject to a certain minimum amount), as will the names and callsigns of those who make an individual contribution in advance of the DXpedition (again subject to a certain minimum amount) - please let us know if you do not want your name and callsign to appear on the QSL card.

This first Bulletin is intended mainly to alert you to Project Star Reach. Between now and March further bulletins will be issued, but you can already find out much more by visiting the Web site which is up and running at www.fsdxa.com/3b9c.

Don Field G3XTT, NK1G (g3xtt@lineone.net) 3 November 2003
(3B9C Publicity Officer)

"DXpeditioning Behind the Scenes", edited by Neville Cheadle G3NUG and Steve Telenius-Lowe G4JVG offers, in the words of Wayne Mills N7NG, "A comprehensive view of virtually all aspects of a major expedition for the traveler and DXer alike. From early planning through QSLing, this book offers a variety of thoughts and suggestions on every facet of the DXpedition. It is by far the most complete 'how to' reference available". The book is available in the USA for \$28 plus \$3 shipping from IREF Inc, 118 Oak Ridge Drive, New Braunfels, Tx 78132. E-mail: ad5a@beecreek.net Elsewhere the book can be obtained for £16.95 plus postage from Nevada (www.nevada.co.uk/book-DX.html), Unit 1, Fitzherbert Spur, Farlington, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO6 1TT, England (Tel: +44 23 9231 3090). Ordering can be by credit card. All surpluses from the sale of the book will be used to sponsor future DXpeditions.

European Champions World Runners-up CQ 160m Contest 2003 Multi-Single SSB EI7M



John EI8IR

Neil EI3JE

Jim EI8GS

The annual CQ WW Top Band Contest is held each February and is the biggest contest of the year on that band.

The East Cork Group EI7M had a great result in the 2002 competition, finishing first in Europe and world second in the multi-single category. They were only headed by 5B4/UA9MA for world honours.

The operators pictured above were John EI8IR, Neil EI3JE and Jim EI8GS and they operated from EI8IR's station in Car-rigtwohill.

The aerials were an 80 foot vertical, a dipole at 80 feet and three beverages.

Congratulations to them and we wish them well in next years event.



On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,
13 Hazel Road,
Togher, Cork.
ei2hy@eircom.net

Welcome to another On the Air column, the last of 2003 and we start off with some extraordinary news regarding solar activity from the past number of weeks which indicate that this cycle is winding down with a bang!

Several X-Class flares have erupted from the sun with some of them been directed earthwards causing serious radio blackouts and total wipe-out of HF bands for hours.

We had a double eruption on October 26th during the CQ WW phone contest when X-Class Flares erupted from giant sunspot groups 486 at 06:50UTC and group 484 at 18:15UTC but these were overshadowed when one of the most powerful X-Class flares, a category X17, to be seen in years erupted from group 486 at 11:10UTC on October 28th. Following this we had some days with severe geomagnetic storms reaching G5, the highest you can get, severe radio blackouts leading to a total degradation of HF Bands but leading to some excellent openings on **6m** due to the intense Aurorae which were produced and made the band sound like a Sporadic-E opening!

At one stage the K was over 9 and the A-index reached 199, certainly very high figures!

As if that wasn't an exciting end to the month of October, November started off in spectacular style and had the biggest flare ever recorded erupt!

First off on November 2nd was an X8.3 from our friend group 486, followed the next day, the 3rd by an X2.7 and an X4.3 flares both from group 488, but it was at 19:55UTC on November 4th that history

was made when a super flare erupted from group 486 and was so intense that it saturated the instruments aboard the ACE and GOES spacecraft which are calibrated to read as far as X17, as the scientists at that time thought it was high enough a scale hi!

Later examinations from ground based stations put the flare at X28, the highest one ever recorded!

These groups weren't done yet with us as group 484 came back into view in the middle of November and launched a coronal mass ejection on the 18th which impacted the earth's magnetic field on the morning of the 20th and sparked off an intense geomagnetic storm leading to aurora contacts to be made on **6m** and down to **10m** with UK stations roaring in with massive flutter!

Band Reports

Demonstrating that organising DX trips aren't as simple as just turning up and operating from the beach, the operators of 3C0V had a rough time during their trip to Annobon Island (AF-039) when, despite having all necessary documents and licences, had to suffer numerous visits from military authorities on a daily basis. These came to a head on October 4th when they turned up, ordered a cessation of all activity and expelled the team by putting them on a Russian cargo plane bound for the mainland, all within four hours.

This story at least has a happy ending in so far as all operators made it back safely to their respective homes and if you made contact has been accepted for DXCC by the ARRL.

Likewise all trips are subject to weather and the BQ9P trip to Pratas was delayed by a typhoon which led to the team having to return to Kaohsiung and travel by a Coast Guard charter flight. They finally came on air on October 9th and managed to put over 25,070 QSO's in the

log after six days of operation.

The German led team of ZK2BH, ZK2BR and ZK2GB were quite loud in the mornings on **20m** while the other German led team did a great job in their double hop trip around Christmas Island and Cocos-Keeling Island. First up was VK9XW from Oct 4-10 which netted them some 12,250 contacts. Propagation was very good to them on the higher bands and they were very easy to work on **10m** and **15m** especially.

After a brief trip it was do it all over again, this time as VK9CD from Cocos-Keeling which lasted eleven days between Oct 11-22 and produced a higher QSO total of about 16,000 contacts. If you missed the operation from both these VK9 Entities, following in their footsteps and mirroring their activities were a group of mostly Australian YL's who came on as VK9XYL until Oct 27th before changing location to Cocos-Keeling Island as VK9CYL.

Just to round it all up Charlie, W0YG, was also active from Christmas Island as VK9XG, along with another solo op by David as VK9XD, then it was the turn of Sasi, JA1KJW and Kuni, JA8VE, to give out Cocos-Keeling Island as VK9CJ and VK9CV respectively between Nov 27-Dec 7, certainly two popular locations.

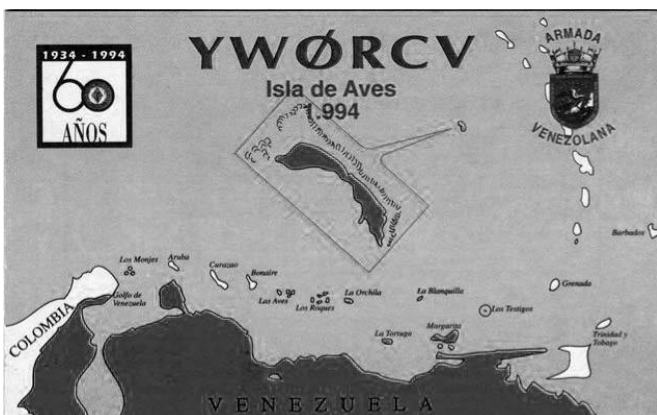
Also spending time on Islands, nearly the entire month of October, Polish ops SP9EVP, SP9PT and SQ9BOP were very active from Easter Island (SA-001) with CE0Y/home calls between Oct 18th to Nov 1st.

S79NS was Norbert, DL2RNS, on from the Seychelles, also from Germany and very busy in the Pacific.

Willi DJ7RJ, was active as ZK3MW, T20MW and finally once again QRV at the end of October as 5W0MW. Well known JA DXer Kan, JA1BK, was on from Tutuila Island (OC-45), part of American Samoa as KH6BK/AH8 and was ably assisted by Tetsuo, AH7C, as AH7C/AH8.

Another Island hopper was Vlad, UA4WHX, who has popped up from

(Continued on page 7)





(Continued from page 6)

various Entities around the Pacific over the course of the Summer including the Solomon Islands (H44VV), the Temotu Province (H40VB), Vanuatu (YJ0VB), New Caledonia (FK/AC4LN), Wallis and Futuna (FW/AC4LN), Fiji (3D2VB), Rotuma (3D2VB/R), Tuvalu (T20VB), West Kiribati (T30VB) and was last on from North Cook as ZK1/AC4LN.

Current plans have him on the Marquesas Islands (OC-027) until December 9th before heading onto the Austral Islands between Dec 12-15 and ending up on French Polynesia itself from Dec 16-25. Plenty of activity from Mauritius Island (AF-049) from 3B8/ON4LAC, 3B8/ON5AX, 3B8/PA0VHA and 3B8/PA3BAG burning up the airwaves and PA0VHA also made a side trip to Rodrigues Island as 3B9/PA0VHA (see more about 3B9 in the Up and Coming section).

The unique Entities of 4U1UN in New York and 4U1ITU made a few appearances on the bands in November with 4U1UN been heard briefly in the CQ WW CW Contest, as did HV5PUL which is infrequently on these days. Staying with "oddball" DXCC's, Monk Apollo from Mount Athos (SV/A) had a new Icom IC-756 Pro donated to him along with some aerials and has led to SV2ASP/A been heard on air a bit more often.

A few unusual prefixes popped up during November.

TO6M was Serge, F5AUS, on from Martinique (FM) while also on from there was TO00 (Tango Oscar Zero Oscar) with cards going to KC0W and one prefix that caused confusion was 9M0SEA on for the SEANET conference in 9M6 land but which had DXer's confusing it with the Spratly Islands

which normally uses 9M0.

Amateurs in Latvia were using YL85 as part of the 85th anniversary celebrations and also celebrating an anniversary amateurs in Turkey were using various calls beginning with TC80 towards the end of October with

TC80KOC been the

most active one heard and 3A50ARM was on during November for the 50th anniversary of the Association des Radio amateurs de Monaco (ARM). TU2CI had the station TU0PAX on from the Ivory Coast to "promote Peace Day" while on the same day, November 15th between 09.00-11.00 UTC on **15m** stations BT1A, BT1B and BT1C were heard on from China.

An interesting call was worked on Nov 22nd with ZS1SALT on from the site of South Africa's Large Telescope array. The "biggie" though was TO4E from Europa Island (AF-009) which came on stream at about 16:00UTC on Nov 24th but due to trying to conserve fuel for the generator were heard very infrequently until the CQ WW CW Contest when TO4WW commanded huge pile-ups mostly on **10m** and to a smaller extend **15m**, indeed I spent nearly all the weekend chasing them (to no avail yet hi!) so my tally during the contest was very small hi!

Still, I found conditions excellent on **10m** with VK's worked and quite loud from Asia were a group of Slovak ops who made a multi-op effort from Cambodia as XU7ACZ and were active after the contest with calls XU7ACZ, XU7ADC, XU7ADA and XU7ADB. Some strong signals from Africa like 5U5Z and TS7N (AF-073) "kicking the door down" while on the Saturday evening of the contest, North American stations were workable right up to 22:00UTC and HC8N from the Galapagos was audible up to 23:00UTC!

Due to an ongoing coronal hole, conditions were more subdued on Sunday evening with **10m** and **15m** closed at around 20:00UTC and unfortunately due to chasing TO4WW a complete breakdown of the DX isn't available hi!

Your Logs

Again very quiet with the submitted log extracts but Chuck, EI4IS, did provide a log extract mainly for the month of October when conditions were a bit subdued and I notice a lot of calls from the six call area in the US, guess Chuck did an entry in the CA QSO Party!

Other calls in Chuck's log include: 4U1UN, 4M9YY, KL7/K1YS, TI8M and VP9/AA1AC.

Up and Coming

Making a return trip to Africa will be Yoshi, JA1UT, and fellow JA's as they once again operate from Mauritania with the following calls: 5T5AFF (JA1AFF) Sigeji, 5T5CPS (JA1CPS), Tadanobu, 5T5GDR (JR1GDR), Yoshinori, 5T5HC (JA1HC), Hitoshi, 5T5RQ (JA6RQ) Joji, and 5T5TY (JA1TY), Yoshimasa, QSL via their home calls.

One for the satellite enthusiasts among you will be an operation from Amsterdam Island (FT*Z) as newly licensed Ham Sebastien will be based there for a year on a tour of duty. As he has only a VHF call, operations will be on **6m** and the AO-40 satellite but if France follows suit with most Nations and abolish the need for Morse to access the HF Bands then activity might also be on the "real" frequencies hi!

Planning a new IOTA activation will be Johan, PA3EXX who already gave out a few new one's and will be hoping to be QRV from Cato Reef, part of the un-numbered Coral Sea Islands Territory South Group (OC-NEW) from December 2nd to 6th.

Unfortunately plans to also activate Marion Reef (Coral Sea Islands Territory North Group), also a new IOTA, have been cancelled for December 2003. The call sign used will be VK4WWI/9 and note that this will count as Australia only and not as one of the separate VK9 DXCC Entities.

PS7JN, Joca, might be heading back to St Peter and St Paul Rocks at the end of the year so keep the ears open for ZW0S from the start to about the 15th of December.

If you're a fan of working VK's in the morning on the low bands then this might be of interest to you.

From January 1st, VK's will be able to

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

operate phone from 3776-3800 KHz on a primary basis as other mobile users are getting moved elsewhere and on a related, sad note the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) has approved the removal of Morse Code testing on the same date making Australia the second country in Oceania to drop the Morse, the first being Papua New Guinea.

To welcome new VK's onto HF the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIAO) are holding a "Welcome to HF QSO Party" (I kid you not hi!) on New Year's Day.

Celebrating 200 years of independence for Haiti (NA-096) German operators Manfred/DK1BT, Hans/DL7CM, Juer-gen/DL7UFN and Sid/DM2AYO will operate as 4V200YH (standing for 4 Victor 200 hundred Years of Haiti) between the timeframe of Jan 28th to Feb 15th 2004.

Currently active from Tobago Island (SA-009) as 9Y4/home calls; Babs, DL7AFS, and Lot, DJ7ZG, are once again on the island hopping trail next year with plans to go to both Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands. The first stop will be from Lord Howe Island between February 16th to 27th, before they go to Norfolk Island for activity from February 29th to March 13th. The call signs will be announced at later time. Activity will be on 6 through 80 meters on SSB, RTTY and PSK.

Also Island hopping in that area, Ian, 9M2/G3TMA, and two other operators are planning a trip to two rare Borneo IOTA destinations in late March/early April 2004. The two islands are: OC- 165 Pulau Satang Besar (9M8) and OC- 184 Pulau Muara Besar (V8). Bad news came though with the announcement that the planned trip to Peter the First (3Y) has been postponed to possibly 2005 due to transportation problems, but to make up for it, two exciting operations are due to come on, both from tiny Island Entities. Starting off 2004 with a bang and last activated ten years ago, Aves Island (YV0) belongs to Venezuela and lies about 600km North of the mainland. Measuring only 580 metres long and 150 metres wide, Aves Island (NA-020) is regularly scrubbed clean of all trees and vegetation due to been just 3 metres high

at it's highest point and has the Venezuelan Navy calling frequently to repair the tiny garrison it has on the Island. Because Radio Club Venezolano will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary in 2004, a joint effort from them and the Navy will give us an operation from there in late January or early February.

The other exciting operation announced for next year is the Five Stars DXers Association, of 9M0C and D68C fame.

Plans are to mount a similar style large group activation of Rodrigues Island (AF-017) as 3B9C, see elsewhere in the issue for more details of it.

There's only one resident Ham on Rodrigues in the form of Robert, 3B9FR, who became QRV again when the last serious DX-pedition 3B9R donated some gear to Robert after their 47,000 plus QSO's trip of 1999.

With a population of over 34,000 inhabitants, Rodrigues lies about 650 kilometres NE from Mauritius (some articles give it as 550km, while others say 650km!) and is known as the tenth district of the Republic of Mauritius. It was discovered by Diego Rodriguez in February 1528 and after that was used as a reference for sailors navigating to India. With a total surface area of 110 kilometre square, it's the smallest Island in the Mascarenes region and the highest point is Mont Limon at 393 metres above sea level and hopefully wouldn't be an obstacle to their propagation needs hi!

When the dust has settled after everyone has worked 3B9C on every mode and band, it's time then to chase the other major DX trip to Banaba (OC-018) when T33C hit the airwaves in April 2004, led by Rob, ex PA5ET and now PA2R. They will first off do an entry in the CQ WW WPX Contest from Tarawa (T30) before boarding a chartered vessel to Banaba Island.

Finally, it just leaves me room to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and DX filled Happy New Year and in keeping with the Festive mood look out for OH9SCL to be on from Santa Claus Land during December.

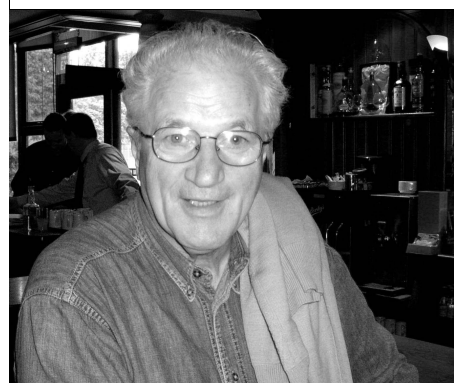
My thanks as usual go to the Daily DX. So until next year, keep listening! 73 de EI2HY.



Larry EI8FJB
Cork City



Tony EI9IL
Limerick City



John EI3BF
Cullen, Co. Cork



Paul EI3ENB
Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny

The Kerkennah Award



(A) Aim of Issue

The Kerkennah Award is issued to promote the growing of ham radio in Tunisia. With the money left, we buy equipment to set up new stations in Tunisia.

(B) Conditions of Issue

- 1) All modes permitted by the applicant's license may be used.
- 2) The Kerkennah Award will be issued initially when the applicant submits evidence of confirmed a minimum of 10 contacts with ham radio stations from Kerkennah Islands in different modes (SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK, Hell, etc.) and bands (2m, 6m, 10 – 160m).

Contacts with these stations will count:

3V8BT in March 2000

TS7N in November 2000

TS7N in November/December 2003

- 4) There will be a charge for the issue of the Kerkennah Award. All money, which remains after the expenses is used for the promotion of the amateur radio in Tunisia. The status will be published from time to time on the homepage of the Tunisian Amateur Radio Society ASTRA. The payment should be included with the application in USD or Euro. Please send your application to award manager:

ARS DJ7IK, Andy Lüer

Hans-Sachs-Weg 34, D-64291 Darmstadt, Germany

OR

PayPal account dj7ik@web.de

(C) Applications for Kerkennah Award

- 1) A computer generated or hand written list will be accepted.
- 2) All applications must be verified by the applicant's local club or by two other licensed hams before forwarding. The Kerkennah Award will be issued once the appropriate fee is received.

- 3) The award will be sent upon receipt of the following fee :
Euro or USD 10,00

If one sends more money to support ham radio in Tunisia, we will publish the call on the ASTRA homepage.

EI Stations active on the DXCC Listings January 1996 - July 2003

2003		
March	EI7CC EI7CC EI7CC	344 Entities. Category - Mixed 343 Entities. Category - Phone 294 Entities. Category - CW
2002		
September	EI2GS	337 Entities. Category - Phone
April	EI3IO	109 Entities. Category - 6 Metres
February	EI7GL	104 Entities. Category - 6 Metres - (1st EI 6m + VHF DXCC)
2001		
September	EI2CH	165 Entities. Category - Phone - (New Member DXCC)
The following applied for the ARRL Special DXCC Millenium Award : - EI2CH, EI3GV, EI3IP, EI5CRC, EI7CC and EI7GL.		
2000		
November	EI2GS EI6FR EI2GS	336 Entities. Category - Mixed 334 Entities. Category - Mixed 334 Entities. Category - Phone
October	EI7GL EI7GL	112 Entities. Category - 40 Metres 153 Entities. Category - Phone
September	EI2HY	306 Entities. Category - Mixed
March	EI7CC EI7CC EI7CC	338 Entities. Category - Mixed 337 Entities. Category - Phone 267 Entities. Category - CW
1999		
November	EI2GS	328 Entities. Category - Phone - (New Honor Roll member on Phone)
	EI2GS	332 Entities. Category - Mixed
October	EI7II EI2GX EI2HY EI/GM4ARJ	186 Entities. Category - Phone 262 Entities. Category - Mixed 92 Entities. Category - Mixed 107 Entities. Category - CW - (New Member DXCC)
June	EI4GK -	216 Entities. Category - Phone
1998		
October	EI2GX	201 Entities. Category - Mixed - (New Member DXCC)
September	EI2HY	270 Entities. Category - Mixed
March	EI6FR	326 Entities. Category - Mixed
1997		
September	EI4HM EI9HQ EI9HQ	109 Entities. Category - CW - (New Member DXCC) 107 Entities. Category - Mixed - (New Member DXCC) 102 Entities. Category - Phone - (New Member DXCC)
July	EI8EM	306 Entities. Category - Phone
May	EI2IH	109 Entities. Category - CW - (New Member DXCC)
1996		
December	EI8AR	327 Entities. Category - Phone
November	EI2GS EI2GS	325 Entities. Category - Mixed 321 Entities. Category - Phone
October	EI6FR	324 Entities. Category - Mixed
September	EI2HY	209 Entities. Category - Mixed
July	EI8AU	300 Entities. Category - Phone
May	EI6HM	107 Entities. Category - Mixed - (New Member DXCC)

IOTA 40th Anniversary Awards Programme - IOTA 2004

The RSGB IOTA Committee and CDXC (Chiltern DX Club) - The UK DX Foundation announce the establishment of the IOTA 40th Anniversary Awards Programme - IOTA 2004.

The purpose of this programme is to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the IOTA Programme by Geoff Watts, to promote IOTA activity and to have fun.

The IOTA 2004 Programme will be administered by CDXC on behalf of the RSGB IOTA Committee.

The objective of IOTA 2004 is to contact as many different IOTA island groups as possible within the calendar year 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004.

Entrants may use the HF bands or 6 metres (but repeater and satellite QSOs do not count). For simplicity, the rules will be the same as those for the popular IOTA Millennium Programme which ran in the year 2000.

There are two types of contact that count for credit - premium contacts and normal contacts. Premium contacts are made during particular months and score extra points.

A series of attractive certificates - the gold, silver and bronze certificates - will be available as will participation certificates.

Nevada of the UK has agreed to sponsor the IOTA 2004 Programme. This sponsorship will cover the costs of administration and certificate design.

Details of IOTA 2004 can be found at www.cdxc.org.uk and the rules together with a listing of island groups, including the months when premium scores are made, may be downloaded from this site later in the year.

An application form is included with this listing. This programme should be great fun - no QSL cards are required.

For those who would like details and do not have Internet access but have a computer send a floppy disk and a post-paid mailer to G3XTT - 105 Shiplake Bottom, Peppard Common, Henley on Thames, RG9 5HJ, England (don@g3xtt).

Your Letters

CQWW SSB from Co. Kerry

Dear Members,

I had a wonderful time operating CQWWSSB as EI2VNO from Cahircaveen, Mannix Point, in County Kerry. I had hoped to meet some of the natives on this, my third trip to the ancestral homeland, but timing, Internet access and other problems got in the way.

Conditions were strange with the solar activity and I could not get my 15 meter beam up due to mechanical problems, so I used a G5RV at 21 feet.

Obviously, EI is regarded as DX, as I was able to make about 600 contacts in the Test and 660 overall.

My very best wishes to you all (as we say in Texas). I will be sending some envelopes for cards and some money for postage.

Come and see me in Houston!

73, Jim Carmody, nn5o/ei2vno
15910 Congo Lane
Jersey Village, TX 77040
USA

Origin of 'Ham'

Dear Dave,

I noted the story about the origin of the term "ham" in the September/October Echo Ireland.

Unfortunately, there's one small problem with the story: it isn't true. The story was researched decades ago and was found to be a fabrication by an unknown party. Because it's more entertaining than the true story, it lives on.

As best we are able to determine, the explanation given at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/history.html#ham> is as close to the truth as we are ever likely to get.

73,
David Sumner, K1ZZ
Chief Executive Officer, ARRL

Contest Hogs

Dear Editor,

I am not normally given to complaining but I feel I must get this off my chest.

I have no interest in contesting and generally give the weekends with the big contests a miss but the behaviour of some contest stations on 40 metres during the recent SSB Worldwide contest really took the biscuit.

I appreciate that the IARU band plans are only gentlemen's agreements but there is no excuse for the complete taking over of the 40 metre band by the mindless 59 brigade. They almost went down to the band edge.

I have carried out some research on contest rules and find that most contests specify contest preferred segments. Unfortunately, the CQ Worldwide contest is run by a commercial organisation, namely CQ magazine and it shows no respect for any agreements.

Can we do anything about this intolerant behaviour?

Is our national Society powerless?

I spoke to a prominent IRTS committee member and the only satisfaction I got was a comparison with the Dublin City marathon where the streets are closed off for the event.

This is the thin end of the wedge and it looks like the start of the attack on the CW portions of our bands.

Lets hope that the abolishing of the requirement for knowledge of CW to operate on HF will not mean that we lose our bandwidth.

73

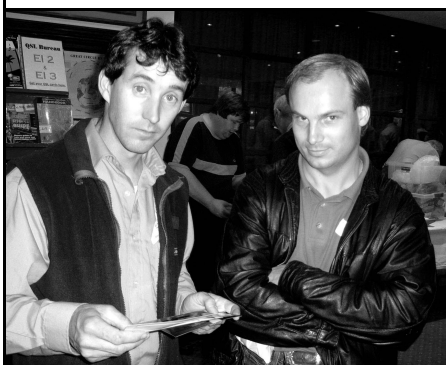
A frustrated CW operator
(Name and Address with Editor)



Cork ATV Trials

Aedan EI3EG and Finbarr EI1CS conducting ATV trials in North Cork

Pictures from the Cork Rally



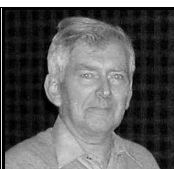
Tommy EI2IT and Clifford EI8FQB



John EI7BA and Paddy EI3AV



Charlie EI4IS and Toby EI7FO



Reading the Mail

By

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #27 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 30 September to 21 November 2003.

I can report that small packets of cards (less than 1 kilo) came from EDR Denmark, JARL, KARL, SARL, the LABRE divisions for Belo Horizonte, Curitiba and Fortaleza, UY0ZG, and VK8 Buro.

Keeping up the volume, larger parcels came from ARRL, BFRA, CRC, Dutch QSL buro, MRASZ Hungary, and SRR Moscow, (1 – 2 kilos each).

Also the usual heavyweight from RSGB (5 kilos).

The following cards were noticed and thought worthy of mention: BA3AG, BD0AV, DT8FWC, DT0FWC, GQ0YYY, HL17BLF, JY8WW, OC4WW, ON4WW, OZ0BB, S07WW, T19M, TR8KPJ, TY9F, YN2EJ, 2Q0OOO, 3XY1B0, 3WRER, 3W7TK, and 5T5WW.

Still very obvious was the large number of cards reflecting activity on 50 and 144MHz with North Africa, USA and Europe.

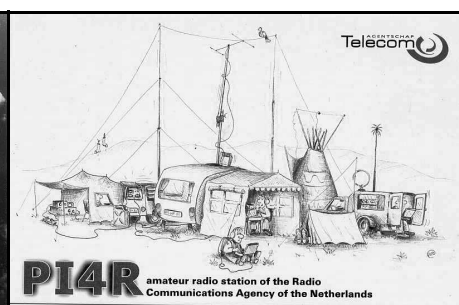
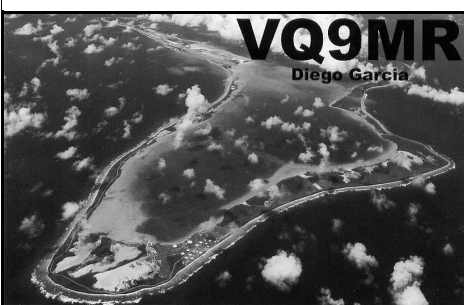
As well as cards from many US, Canadian, Croatian and Japanese islands, for IOTA chasers the following were noticed: AH3C, BI4Q, CE9/R1ANF, D44TR, D68C, FR/PA3GIO/p, FS/PA3GIO/m, GM6UW/p, GT2UG/m, LZ1ZC/1, MJ/F5TJP/p, MS0IRC, PA3GIO/HI9, PJ6/PA3GIO/p, R1ANF, R1ANF/A, T88EA, VK9XV, XP1AB, YM0MA, ZD9BV, ZK2GI, ZL/PA0MIR, 2S5VG/p, 5R8HA/p and 5R8GY. According to the QSL from VQ9MR, Diego Garcia is a coral atoll that sits on an extinct volcano rising about 10,000 feet above the Indian Ocean floor, and the highest elevation is 6 feet.

I also liked the card from PI4R, club station of The Netherlands Radiocommunications Agency – see pictures.

Congratulations to all recipients.

For now, all best wishes and lots of good DX in 2004.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.



HAM-TV magazine by Satellite

Club-TV wants to establish a monthly HAM-TV Magazine via satellite covering most of Europe. During the past year we have carried out a number of tests and a couple of programs. We broadcast digitally via Sirius 2 on 5 degrees East with a Symbol Rate of 6667 and FEC 1/2. The frequency and polarisation may be different from time to time, but normally it is 12590 MHz vertical pol.

The exact information with dates and times is given on www.parabolic.se under Club-TV for each transmission.

We want to cover all aspects of amateur radio and we think there are a number of hams around Europe that can handle a video camera and edit the result. A video of 10 to 20 minutes will be perfect. As the name indicate we feel that these activities are perfect for amateur radio Clubs. There is no cost involved (other than the tape) as the broadcasts are sponsored by Parabolic AB.

Please help us with contributions from the members of your society.

Any questions will be answered by sm6cku@parabolic.se Many thanks for your co-operation.

73 de Ben

Benget A Jockert, SM6CKU

Jamboree On The Air 2003 - Scouting Ireland (CSI)

The 46th Jamboree on the Air took place over the weekend of 18th and 19th October 2003.

Scouting Ireland (CSI) activated seven stations over the weekend.

They were;

EI0NDR operating from Chanel College, Coolock;
EI2DSJ operating from Dundalk;
EI2SDR operating from the Scout Den in Wicklow;
EI2WRC operating from the Scout Den, John's Hill, Waterford;
EI4BST operating from the Community Centre in Bayside, Dublin;
EI5MRC operating from the Scout Campsite in Mount Melleray, Co. Waterford and
GB0FAS operating from the Scout Den, Ballymoney.

In addition Scouting Ireland – SAI activated EI2SAI from the sailing club in Fenit and The Scout Association in Northern Ireland activated GN4SIW from the Scout Den in Randallstown.

Band conditions on 40m resulted in stations on the east coast not being able to contact other stations elsewhere on the island.

Therefore a planned sked on 40m between the Chief Scouts of Scouting Ireland - CSI, and Scouting Ireland - SAI, Mr. Peter Dixon and Mr. Donald Harvey and the Chief Commissioner of The Scout Association in Northern Ireland (SANI), Mr. Philip Scott could not go ahead.

However the Chief Commissioner of SANI was able to pass on greetings to the JOTA stations in Waterford and Kerry.

The Chief Scouts of CSI and SAI who visited the stations in Dundalk and Wicklow formally opened JOTA on the Dublin 2m repeater and then spoke with Scouts at both locations and Bayside.

Following the formal opening, Joe EI4FV of the 132nd Bayside Unit was awarded CSI's 20 year Service Medal in recognition of his services to Scouting.

Besides operating on voice, scouts in Wicklow went Amateur Television portable, sending back live colour television pictures from a beach about a mile away from their Scout Den.

Scouts in Bayside operated on PSK and APRS.

All Units and Groups that participated in JOTA are asked to submit reports to their respective National JOTA Organiser at

- Scouting Ireland - CSI, Larch Hill, Dublin 16 or by Email to njo@scoutingirelandcsi.com whose report form is downloadable from the CSI Radio Scouting Web page www.qsl.net/ei3ip/jota.htm.
- Scouting Ireland - SAI, Tennants Hall, Christ Church, Rathgar, Dublin 6, before 30th November, and
- The Scout Association, Gilwell Park, Bury Road, Chingford, London E4 7QW, whose report form is downloadable from the Scout Association Radio Scouting Web page <http://www.radio-scouting.org.uk/> before the 23rd of November.

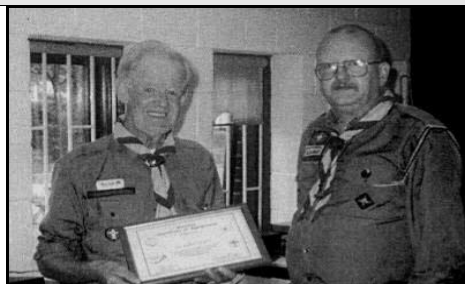
These will be used in the National Reports to the WOSM in Geneva. Reports should if possible include photographs and press cuttings.

Scouting Ireland (CSI) would like to thank North Dublin Radio Club, Dundalk Amateur Radio Society, South Dublin Radio Club, the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and the Marconi Radio Group, Ballycastle who provided assistance in setting up and operating stations for this year's JOTA.

Also, this is the last year that CSI will participate in JOTA, as on 1st of January 2004, we will join with SAI in forming a new association to be called Scouting Ireland.

We wish to thank all those Experimenters and Amateur Radio Clubs who set up and operated stations for previous JOTA's and the Irish Radio Transmitters Society for their assistance over the last 45 years.
73's de CSI.

Seán Ó'Súilleabháin EI3IP
National JOTA Organiser
Scouting Ireland (CSI)
<http://www.qsl.net/ei3ip/jota.htm>



Joe EI4FV (on left) being presented with the 20 year service medal by Sean EI3IP National JOTA Organiser (CSI)



JOTA 2003 with 17th/20th Waterford



JOTA 2003 with 15th/25th Waterford



Chief Scout SAI in Wicklow



JOTA 2003 in Wicklow

Operating Awards DX Century Club

There are thousands of operating awards available today ranging from the main international ones like DXCC, WPX and IOTA to the club and national society ones like our own Worked All Ireland, Worked EI Counties, Worked All Mayo, the Cork DX Award and the IPA Shamrock Award. We will look in detail at the DXCC awards in this article. In future issues we will look at other awards.

DX Century Club

The DX Century Club is the oldest award scheme in operation and is run by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national society in the United States of America.



All amateur radio operating is based on the idea of DXCC countries (now known as entities) list.

The DXCC list is based upon the principles outlined by

Clinton B. DeSoto W1CBD in an article in QST in 1935. DeSoto stated "The basic rule is simple and direct: Each discrete geographical or political entity is considered to be a country". That rule has stood the test of time, from the original 1937 list to the ARRL DXCC list of today.

The basic entry requirement is to work and confirm 100 DXCC entities on any band or mode. This should be within reach of even the most modest station operator. There are 18 separate DXCC awards available plus Honor Roll.

These are:

Mixed, Phone, CW, RTTY, 160m, 80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m, 6m, 2m, Satellite.

There is something there for everyone.



Once you qualify for the basic award, your next step depends pretty much on your stations capabilities.

If you have aerials for all bands, then 5 Band DXCC could be your aim. That means getting 100 entities confirmed on each of the five bands 80, 40, 20, 15 & 10 metres. This is then endorsable for the following additional bands: 160, 30, 17, 12, 6 & 2 metres.

As well as the certificate, an engraved plaque is available. This currently costs \$35.00 plus shipping. The only EI I have known with a 5DDXCC was the late Eric Dixon EI8EI. I would like to hear of others.

The aim of most serious DXers is to achieve honor roll listing. To qualify, you must have a total confirmed entity count that places you among the numerical top ten DXCC entities total on the current DXCC List.

This currently means having 326 entities confirmed.

These can be either mixed, CW or phone.

You can qualify for Mixed, CW, Phone or RTTY.

Not too many reach that goal and the current EI honor roll members are listed elsewhere on this page.

The ultimate achievement of confirming all entities on the list is the #1 Honor Roll.

When you have all that achieved, what's next?

Going on from there, we have the DXCC Challenge Award where you count band/countries confirmed.

This is available to 5 Band DXCC holders only and the basic award, which is a plaque, is for 1000 confirmed.

Plaques can be endorsed in multiples of 500.

All bands from 160m to 6m count for this one and bands with less than 100 confirmed also count towards this award.

The DeSoto Cup is presented to the DXCC Challenge leader as of the 30th of September each year.

The full DXCC rules and the DXCC entity list are available on the ARRL web site: www.arrl.org.

American Radio Relay League (ARRL)
225 Main St.,
Newington,
CT 06111-1494
USA

Phone: 860-594-0200
Fax: 860-594-0259



- Year - 2003**
(Honor Roll = 326 to 335)
Category Mixed
- EI2GS - 334 Entities (339)
 - EI7CC - 332 Entities (344)
 - EI6FR - 331 Entities (334)
- Category Phone
- EI2GS - 332 Entities (337)
 - EI7CC - 331 Entities (343)

See www.qsl.net/ei7gl/ for updated details of EI stations on the DXCC listings.

Club Roundup

The George Stritch Memorial Shield.



Every year, Fingal Radio Club present the George Stritch Memorial Shield to a deserving club member. The nominations for the award are cast from votes by the Club members. The award is given in recognition of services to the club and it's members throughout the past year.

This year the award was won by Paddy Daly EI6CP.

Picure shows Paddy Daly EI6CP (left) being presented with the George Stritch Memorial Shield by Fingal Radio Club Chairman Harry Boyle EI9BW (right).

Photo: Aidan Murphy EI5HW.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

A 70cm wide-split repeater is currently on test at the Mt. Leinster site.

The repeaters input frequency is 438.550 MHz and output frequency is 430.950 MHz.

The club are currently looking into an alternative site for the 2 metre voice repeater and this repeater will remain off-air for the coming weeks.

More news will be announced soon.

In the meantime, the IRTS Radio news from Waterford on Tuesday nights will be read on 145.575 MHz.

For latest information and news about the club, visit the clubs website at www.searg.com or e-mail info@searg.com.

Packet News

TIPBBS, WITIP and the newly sited EI2WRC-2 node are now all on 144.850 MHz.

EI2WRC-2 was recently moved to Mt. Leinster and the interference which was present on 144.850 in the vicinity of WIPIP has ceased so the gateway is now moved back to its original frequency.

Fingal Radio Club AGM

The Fingal Radio Club AGM was held on Monday 20th. October 2003. The outgoing committee of Chairman Harry Boyle EI9BW, Secretary Liam Murphy EI3HK, and Club Treasurer Sean Linehan EI7CV gave their respective reports and thanked all for their enthusiasm throughout the past year.

The new incoming committee are as follows:

Chairman:	Chris Yeates EI7AAB,
Secretary:	Aidan Murphy EI5HW
Treasurer:	Sean Linehan EI7CV.

Club Meetings are held every Monday night at 8pm in the Erin's Isle GAA Centre in Finglas. Visitors are welcome.

Tipperary AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group took place last Monday the 10th of November in Raheen House Hotel Clonmel.

The Chairman thanked all those who attended the meeting and thanked all Group members for their support during the past year.

The outgoing Vice Chairman Ron McGrath EI6GO was thanked for his guidance and advice to the outgoing Committee.

The following committee were elected:

Chairman	John Burke EI2JB.
Vice-Chairman	Eddie Kavanagh EI3FFB.
Secretary	John Ronan EI7IG.
Treasurer	Tommy Hallinan EI2IT.
P.R.O.	Paul Norris EI3ENB.

There will be no monthly meeting in December and from the New Year all future monthly meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month.

A date and a venue is yet to be fixed for the annual night out.

A number of Group members are QRV on 4 metres and those heard operating on 70.260 MHz were Tommy EI2IT, Hugh EI2HI, John EI3DIB, Paul EI3ENB. Other stations heard were John EI7GL, John EI3BF, John EI7BA and Jeremy EI5GM all from Cork,

It is hoped to continue to have a sked on 4 metres on the first Tuesday of each month from 8 to 10pm, so if you have 4 Metre gear you should listen on 70.260 MHz and see who you can work or hear,

Further information on the Group and its activities are available on the groups website
www.ei7trg.org

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club GI0LEC

Meetings are held at 8.00pm on the 1st Wednesday in the month at the Railway Hotel, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh. Details from Chairman, Herbie Graham, GI6JPO.

Tel: 028/048 6638 7761.

South Dublin Radio Club

The SDR Christmas Party takes place on Tuesday the 16th of December at 8.00 p.m. in the Templeogue Inn, which is known locally as "The Morgue".

As with the SDR weekly meetings, visitors are very welcome to attend.

One of the highlights of this year's party will be the announcement of the results of the Autumn Challenge, a DX challenge for SDR members only.

Rumour has it that the scores of two of the club's top DXers are very close indeed and the hot money is on a senior club officer taking the spoils.



SDR members at JOTA 2003 in Wicklow

Oscar 14 - End of Mission

It has been reported by the SSTL Mission Control Centre that UoSAT OSCAR-14 has reached the end of its mission after almost 14 years in orbit. The satellite was launched in 1990 by Ariane and was the first 9k6 bps amateur data communications satellite.

UO-14 spent a large portion of its life using commercial frequencies for humanitarian use by SatelLife, who used it until 1997, when it was switched back to amateur use as an FM repeater.

Recently, one of the battery cells has become exhausted and can no longer maintain proper operation of the repeater.

New Crew on International Space Station

A new three man all ham crew has reached the International Space Station, but only two of the new arrivals will remain on-orbit for the next few months.

Called the Expedition 8 crew, the commander is NASA Astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC.

He is accompanied on the I-S-S by Russian Cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri U8MIR and the European Space Agency's Pedro Duque, KC5RGG.

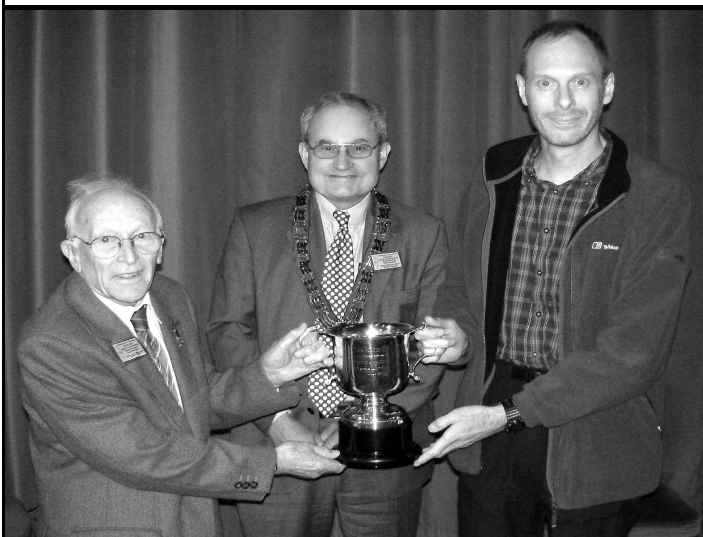
All three arrived at the ISS on October 20th on board a Russian Soyuz transport vehicle.

Foale and Kaleri will replace Expedition 7 crew members Commander Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP and NASA Science Officer Ed Lu, KC5WKJ.

Duque, who's flying under a contract between the Russian and European space agencies and will spend the week in space before returning to Earth with the Expedition 7 crew.

KB5UAC and U8MIR hope to be active on the ISS ham radio station as time permits during their stint in space.

Raynet Cup goes to GI



Left to right - Arnold Matthews G3FZW (donated the cup in July 1962), Bob Whelan G3PJT (RSGB President) and Gordon Bannister GI8SKR accepting -The 'RAYNET' Cup - on behalf of RAYNET NI. The cup as presented at the recent Raynet convention in Manchester.

Radio News Service

Clubs and individuals are strongly encouraged to submit items for inclusion in the radio news.

The news service relies on your input. If you or your club have recently participated in some radio related activity or made a notable achievement please submit your details to the radio news. Remember, day-to-day information such as dates of upcoming meetings or events, club contact details etc. are also most welcome input for the news.

Trans-Atlantic 2 Metre beacon on air

The Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland and the Baccalieu Amateur Radio Club of Carbonear have been successful in placing a VHF Transatlantic beacon on the air. The beacon is transmitting on 144.400MHz. The transmitter 250 W PA is the same one previously used by VE1SMU beacon.

The VHF exciter board and the CW ID board have been built by Joe Craig VO1NA. The 11 element Cushcraft Yagi, 1/2 inch hard line feeder and 35 amp power supply to run the beacon have been donated by Frank VO1HP. The Yagi and feeder were in-stalled by Boyd VO1CBS, Roy VO1XP and Joe VO1NA on August 30, 2003. The repeater site is in the middle of a large field at a turkey farm!!...and it has a clear view of the North Atlantic ocean through the mouth of Conception Bay on the South East coast of VO1 land. It is in the town of Carbonear at co-ordinates N47 45'24" W53 12'59" with the antenna is at about 300' (90m) ASL.

Transatlantic VHF beacon VO1ZA was placed on the air October 19, 2003 at 1330UTC on 144.400Mhz by Frank VO1HP and Boyd VO1CBS. All beacon co-ordinates and information previously released to the public are still valid. Any amateur station who claims to have heard this beacon are asked to send reports via e-mail to either vo1hp@rac.ca or vo1na@rac.ca. Please describe what you have heard, the time and date and if possible the complete information being transmitted by the beacon.

Thanks to Frank Davis, VO1HP for the information.

A Message from ComReg

The Commission for Communications Regulation would like;

1. the users of the call-signs listed get in touch with the office by phone, by post or in writing, at their earliest convenience.
2. the Chairs of ALL Radio Clubs arrange for the return by January 31st 2004, a completed Club Conditions form, complete with membership listing,
3. and any licensee that has not received any form of correspondence in the last 12 months contact the office.

EI0CZ	EI2BCB	EI3FVB	EI4BGB	EI5CX	EI6BMB	EI7CCB	EI8AAB	EI9BAB
	EI2EZ	EI3GZ	EI4CY	EI5DDB	EI6FN	EI7FBB	EI8AQB	EI9BGB
	EI2FBB	EI3IW	EI4EQB	EI5HV	EI6FOB	EI7HA	EI8GO	EI9CNB
			EI4FGB	EI5HY	EI6FQB		EI8GT	EI9EPB
			EI4HM	EI5JK	EI6FTB			
			EI4HY		EI6GK			
					EI6HP			

Radio Experimenters Examination

We would also like to ensure that all prospective candidates interested in sitting the theory examination for Radio Experimenters ensure they have registered, with Mr Derek C. O'Reilly.

A provisional date for this examination is expected to be set for January 2004 and it will be for the first 20 on the registered list. These will be individually contacted as soon as the details are finalised.

Contact for the Commission for Communications Regulation;
Mr Derek C. O'Reilly,
ComReg,
Block DEF, Abbey Court,
Irish Life Centre,
Lower Abbey Street,
Dublin 1.

Direct Line: (01) 804 9769 E mail: derek.oreilly@comreg.ie



Mike Mulcahy EI8FG with Denis O'Flynn EI6HB

Liam Fitzgerald EI4FX with Declan Goggin EI9GA

Global Overlay Mapping System by Tim Makins EI8IC

Reviewed by John Ketch EI2GN

We are mostly all familiar with the maps which are available at the IRTS stand on rally days & I certainly have left the hotel with one or two carefully rolled under my arm for transportation back to the shack. Somewhere in between my maps get forgotten and get left in the car, becoming very well travelled maps indeed and they carry the scars to prove it.

Now Tim Makins, EI8IC, from Co. Sligo has produced a set of maps that you can put on the wall if you wish. You will need to print them first however as these are available only as software, currently Version 2 with overlay Version 1.3

Downloading the maps on my dialup took about an hour. Unzipping, creating a resident folder on the hard drive, creating a shortcut and getting the screen up and running was easy & accomplished in about fifteen minutes.

The programme runs using Microsoft Internet Explorer and the screen is easy to understand and intuitive in its functionality. The centre panel give the title, copyright details, the website of origin and the personalised details of the end user which includes station call-sign, software registration number and station position in degrees and minutes.

There are two control panels available, one on the left hand side of the monitor and one that runs along the top.

The left hand panel is divided into three mini-screens and a row of seven buttons, which combination allows the user to choose continent maps covering in order of appearance Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Oceania and Antarctica. There are two methods of choosing the continents, one by using the pushbuttons under the top mini screen and the other by pushing the cursor around on the top mini-screen itself in order to highlight the desired continent. In each case the result is the same, the chosen continent appears on the second mini-screen and a block of text appears in the third screen that briefly describes in the first instance:

- The segment of continent covered
- The number of maps available
- The number of sub maps available within each continent.

The text screen is used in the second instance, when one highlights the continent appearing in the second mini-screen, to tell you:

What area of the subcontinent you have selected and some latitude and longitude figures for that section.

One feature that I found slightly annoying was the fact that this text screen switched itself off after four seconds, necessitating movement of the cursor in order to reactivate the information. Annoying for slow readers or for people who really like to study map information. These screens, combined with the top panel give you a really useful range of features that comprise continent and segments of continents overlaid with:

- Political boundaries ;
- Relief areas showing mountains and lowlands;
- CQ zones;
- ITU Zones;
- Time zones;
- The IARU locator;
- Latitude and longitude in degrees;
- Names of the larger internal political divisions;
- Principal cities;
- Call sign Prefixes;
- IOTA References;
- National Flags.

The really useful bit is that you can have any, all or none all of the above combinations of overlays active on you screen at a given time, depending on your requirements at that time.

This screen has the advantage over printed maps in that you can chose the information which you want to display at the time you need it. The screen, when populated with your chosen information is easy to navigate using the elevators. A Paw On The Screen pan facility would be nice, but this is only to seek a luxury feature for which there is no real requirement.

While you are negotiating the maps using your cursor you will find on the bottom of your screen an information bar which gives the position using latitude and longitude and also using the IARU locator system.

It also tells you the distance in miles and kilometres to your station and the bearing in degrees that details your beam heading, long and short path to that location.

Should you become confused and need a solution to your problem, the comprehensive Help Files will do just that. They are clear, easy to use and transparent.

The Tools button on the top right hand side of the monitor clears your screen of all information except for that which has to do with using the map in you chosen global segment or sub-segment.

The screen does not appear cluttered at any time but this feature clears the screens and text box at the left hand side of the screen making it slightly easier to navigate and use the current map.

Because the projection method used in creating the maps and that used in creating the scale bar provided are different, this is a less than useful function which I am sure will be addressed in later versions.

Even though the entire map is visible, it currently measures Ireland as being in the region of 180 miles long by 150 miles wide. This is due to the foreshortening caused by the map projection method, and therefore, as stated by Tim in the help files, the scale-bar should be used only as a guide.

I wonder if it is possible to use this package with APRS for emergency communications purposes?

It would require the inclusion of more detail on local area maps and if this were to be made available by the author in the future it would be a very useful facility indeed.

This is not a map of the world that you will use to plan your holidays or to plan a road trip to Friedrichshafen.

This is a package intended to provide the information required by radio amateurs, and, at it's basic level, it matches or exceeds the rolled up paper maps purchased at the recent rally which may make it onto the shack wall if I can find them under the seat of the car.

At it's more sophisticated level, the ability to view separate layers as required makes this a very useful piece of software.

Log on to <http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/> & follow the details for purchase information.

It costs €19.00 for the download version and €25.00 to receive a personalised copy in the post.

UBA - SWARL 365 Days Contest 2004

The Royal Society of Belgian Radio Amateurs (UBA) and Short Wave Amateur Radio Listening (SWARL) invite every licensed radio amateur and short wave listener to participate in this contest. The aim of this contest is to work or hear as many DXCC countries as possible, on the various bands as stipulated in the rules, during a period of one year starting on January 1st at 00:00 hrs. UTC, and this without obligation of confirmation by a QSL-card.

1 Duration

The contest begins on January 1st 2004 at 00:00 UTC, and ends on the December 31st 2004 at 24:00 UTC.

2 Participants

All licensed radio amateurs, and short wave listeners, even without a short wave listener's number, are welcome.

3 Categories

There is only one category:

Category 1 = Mixed-mode, meaning SSB, CW, RTTY and all the new digital modes like PSK, Throb, MT63, HELL, Pactor, MFSK etc.

4 Bands

Logging takes place on all HF bands, i.e. 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meter bands. Respect the IARU band planning recommendations. This means e.g. that SSB QSO's may not be logged on 10 MHz.

5 Logs

Logs should be established in alphabetical order according to the normal country prefix. The logs should comprise the following information:

- a - DXCC-country (*),
- b - Callsign of the station heard,
- c - Frequency (in MHz),
- d - Mode,
- e - Date,
- f - Time (in UTC),
- g - RS(T) (QTH SWL or Licensed Ham),
- h - Callsign of the QSOs partner (for licensed Hams, his own callsign).

Do not forget to put your callsign or SWL number, your name, address, and club section in the heading of your logbook.

(*) The normal prefix of the countries concerned should be entered in the DXCC column.

6 Summary sheet

All logs (final and intermediate, see par. 10) shall be accompanied by a summary sheet. These summary sheets shall include the following information:

your callsign or SWL number,
the category of participation,
your surname and given name,
your address and E-Mail,
the number of DXCC countries per band,
possible remarks and observations,
a station description,
and the following signed declaration:

"I hereby declare that I operated my station in accordance with the contest rules. I accept the decision of the contest committee."

7 Scores

Each DXCC country counts only once per band and counts for one (01) point.

8 Multipliers

This year no multipliers (maybe in the future).

9 Winner

The winner is the participant with the highest number of logged DXCC lands on all bands together.

10 Submission of log and summary sheet

Provisional (intermediate) summary sheets **MUST** be submitted three times per year, these sheets must contain the information outlined in par. 6 above.

These must reach the contest manager by the end of the month following the closing date.

Closing date 1st period = March 31st

Closing date 2nd period = June 30th

Closing date 3rd period = September 30th

The final log and final summary sheet must reach the contest manager by the end of the month following the final closing date.

The date of the E-mail is the only proof. Logs that are sent after the deadline will not be considered for the competition.

11 Results

Both the interim results and the final results will be published in CQ-QSO, on the UBA web page (<http://www.UBA.be>), in the ONL/SWL section and on the SWARL reflector SWARL (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SWARL/>), and on my homepage (<http://users.skynet.be/ONL4299/Contest/1Contestinfo.htm>). All participants having fulfilled the requirements of paragraph 10 will automatically receive the final results.

12 Address

Logs and summary sheets should be sent to the contest manager only via E-mail (onl4299@skynet.be).

13 Awards and plaques

The participants placed first and second in both the HAM and SWL categories, will receive a plaque sponsored by the UBA (The Royal Society of Belgian Radio Amateurs).

The first ten will receive a e-certificate sponsored by SWARL (Short Wave Amateur Radio Listening).

14 Penalties and disqualification

Penalties are applicable for incomplete or inaccurate contacts. Such QSO's will score zero points but there will be no additional penalty. Each unidentified duplicate DXCC country is deleted and penalised by deduction of 5 points.

Disqualification is foreseen for logs which manifestly break the rules.

Good hunting !

Patrick - ONL4299,
E-mail : ONL4299@skynet.be

EI4LDF From Howth Martello Tower

By Tony EI5EM

The EI4LDF (Lee De Forest) amateur radio operation took place on Sat/Sun 22/23 Nov from the Martello Tower, Howth.

It celebrated the centenary of Lee de Forest's wireless telegraphy experiments and demonstration to engineers of the British Post Office in 1903. A similar deForest station was set up, at that time, near Holyhead.

DeForest's demonstration was a complete success with speeds in excess of 30 wpm being achieved (superior to the Marconi system).



Howth Martello Tower

The panoramic views of the harbour, Ireland's Eye, Lambay and the coastline from the tower were stunning. The weather could not have been better. The sea was dead calm and reflected the clear blue sky above.

A G5RV and a 40m dipole were erected as well as a vertical for 2 metres.

EI5EM used the dipole while EI4FV demonstrated PSK31 using the G5RV.

Martello watchtowers were built by the British to give early warning of any attempted invasion by Napoleon. The tow-



Tony EI5EM operating EI4LDF at Howth Martello Tower



Mark EI4FNB with Joe EI4FV on top of the Tower

Peadar Slattery EI2JA has written a book on the subject and also had an article published on the experiments in Practical Wireless a few years ago. Peadar was on hand on both days to give a short talk to the unexpectedly large number of visitors.

Mark (EI4FNB), Joe (EI4FV) and Tony (EI5EM) organised the operation setting up of the equipment, while Peadar (EI2JA) gave short talks at regular intervals.

The HF station was operated by Tony (EI5EM) on his home-brew CW QRP rig which was most fitting for the occasion. Many stations were worked including EI4DO, EI2JD and EI8FI. A Special QSL card will be sent for all contacts.

Tony operated around 7.03 MHz, which is the QRP area of the 40-metre band. More than half the contacts were with other QRP stations.

At times it was difficult to operate due to background noise and queries from visitors on telegraphy even during QSOs.

EI4FV had PSK31 up and running and also operated 2 metres.

EI4FNB was in charge of antenna rigging and flag raising.

ers were built around the coastline at various strategic sites. It was strange while raising the Irish tricolour to think that in the past the Union Jack had flown from the same tower and that there was once a strong possibility of the French tricolour flying there also. Many of the visitors were drawn by the unusual sight of the tricolour and by the "strange" antennas.

The tower is now the property of Fingal County Council and has recently been refurbished. It is hoped to set up a permanent history museum in the tower with the main emphasis being on radio.

Hopefully a permanent Amateur Radio station can be accommodated within the museum. Mr. Pat Herbert, a collector of vintage radio equipment and related memorabilia, has taken on the task of setting up the museum.



Tony EI5EM with visitor Charles EI2EM

The last QSO was with G4SCB at 1547 UTC on Sunday. Thanks Mike for the 589 from Cowes. It took another two hours or so to pack up all the gear and remove the antennas.

However, the operation had been a great success and it was with a great sense of achievement that we drove down the hill and surrendered "Our Tower" to go our separate ways.

50MHz EI Claimed Firsts

By John Desmond EI7GL

Pfx	DXCC Entity	Claimed QSO	CT3	Madeira Is.	EI5FK + CT3FT - 12th Jul 1993 (Time?) Active 1989
1A0	Sov. Mil. Order of Malta	EI7GL + 1A0KM - 15th Jul 2000 (09:27)	CU	Azores	EI5FK + CU1EZ - 27th Jun 1990 (Time?)
3A2	Monaco	EI5FK + 3A/OH2BC - 1st Jul 2000 (09:46) Operation in 1991 was not legal	CX	Uruguay	EI5FK + CX2HS - 23rd Jul 1989 (Time?)
3B6	Agalega & St. Brandon	EI7GL + 3B6RF - 12th May 2001 (18:01)	CY9	St. Paul Is.	EI7GL K0SN/CY9 - 15th Jun 1994
3C	Equatorial Guinea	EI7GL + 3C5I - 27th July 1998 (17:16)	D44	Cape Verde Is.	EI3IO + D44TC - 21st Oct 2001 (10:29)
3DA	Swaziland	?	D68	Comoros	?
3X	Guinea	EI5FK + 3X1SG - 2nd Feb 1991 (Time?) Valid from Feb 88	DL	Germany	EI5FK + DJ2RE - 20/4/90 (Time?) Valid since 1/4/90
4S7	Sri Lanka	?	DU	Philippines	EI5FK + KG6UH/DU1 - 9/2/91 (10:40)
4L	Georgia	EI7GL + 4L5O - 20th June 1999 (08:28) Active 1990+1991	E3	Eritrea	EI3IO + E30TA - 27th Oct 2000 (11:27)
4U1	ITU HQ - Geneva	EI3EBB + 4U0ITU - 2nd June 1995 Active 1990+1991	EH	Spain	EI7DOB + EH3ADW - 19/7/92 (13:41) Valid since 2/7/92
4X	Israel	EI5FK + 4X1IF - 15th Feb 1992 (Time?)	EH6	Balearic Is.	EI2EFB + EH6VQ - 18th Jul 1992 (09:18) Valid since 2/7/92
5A	Libya	EI5FK + 5A1A - 21st May 2000 (Time?)	EH8	Canary Is.	EI7GL + EH8ACW - 8th Jun 1994 (18:35) Valid since 2/7/92
5B4	Cyprus	EI5FK + 5B4PL - 10th Jul 1989 (Time?)	EH9	Ceuta & Melilla	EI2GB + EH9IB - 9th Jun 1993 (13:05) Valid since 2/7/92
5H3	Tanzania	EI5FK + 5H1HK - 15th May 1989 (Time?)	EK	Armenia	EI3IO + EK6AD - 28th Oct 2001 (09:59)
5N	Nigeria	EI5FK + G3GJQ/5N0 - 16/2/89 (Time?)	EL	Liberia	?
5R8	Madagascar	EI2FSB + 5R8FU - 18th May 2002 (14:35)	ER	Moldova	EI7GL + ER1LW - 19th Jun 1995 (16:21)
5T5	Mauritania	EI7GL + 5T5JC - 21st May 1994	ES	Estonia	EI4CL + ES0SM - 10th Aug 1991 (10:26)
5U	Niger	EI2FSB + 5U6W - 12th Feb 2002 (11:05)	EV/EW	Belarus	EV8A + EI? - 10/6/93 (Time?) EI5FK + UC2AA - 10th Jun 1993 (Time?)
5V	Togo	?	EX	Kyrgyzstan	EI3IO + EX8MLT - 16th Feb 2002 (10:27)
5X	Uganda	?	EY	Tajikistan	EI3IO + EY8MM - 4th Nov 2000 (10:29)
6W	Senegal	EI5FK + 6W1QC - 26/2/91 (Time?)	F	France	EI5FK + F9DI - 30th Dec 1988 (Time?)
6Y5	Jamaica	EI3IO + K2KW/6Y5 - 24/11/01 (16:34)	FG	Guadeloupe	EI5FK + FG5FR - 7th Jul 2001 (15:57)
7P8	Lesotho	?	FH	Mayotte	EI7GL + FH/TU5AX - 25/5/00 (16:30)
7Q7	Malawi	EI5FK + 7Q7RM - 27th Jul 1991 (Time?)	FM5	Martinique	EI3IO + FM5WD - 24th Dec 2001 (12:40)
7X	Algeria	? Active 1989. Legal?	FP	St. Pierre & Miquelon	EI3IO + FP/NN9K - 29th July 2001 (14:39)
8P6	Barbados	EI5FK + 8P9HW - 20th Jun 2000 (Time?)	FR	Reunion	EI7GL + FR5DN - 26th May 2000 (15:08)
8R1	Guyana	?	FY	French Guiana	EI5FK + FY5AU - 9th Dec 1989 (Time?)
9A	Croatia	EI8EQ + YT2AQ (9A3AQ) - 27/7/91 (07:32) Valid from 26/6/91	G	England	EI2W + G3BJD
9G	Ghana	EI7BMB + 9G5AN - 29/10/01 (09:44)	GD	Isle of Man	EI5FK + GD3AHV - 11/1/89 (Time?)
9H	Malta	EI5FK + 9H1BT - 24th Dec 1988 (Time?)	GI	Northern Ireland	EI0RTS + GI3ZSC - 24th Jun 1984 (11:10)
9J	Zambia	EI7GL + 9J2BO - 18th Jun 1999 (16:57) Valid from 26/6/91	GJ	Jersey	EI0RTS + GJ3YHU - 5th Jul 1984 (03:00)
9K2	Kuwait	?	GM	Scotland	EI8EF + GM3WOJ - 11th Jun 1987 (17:47)
9L1	Sierra Leone	EI5FK + 9L1US - 25th Feb 1990 (Time?)	GU	Guernsey	EI5FK + GU1DWO - 13/3/89 (Time?)
9M2	West Malaysia	EI3IO + 9M2TO - 26th Oct 2001 (10:19)	GW	Wales	EI0RTS + GW3LDH - 22/6/84 (23:13)
9Q5	Congo	?	HA	Hungary	EI7GL + HA6ZB - 19th May 1996 (22:23)
9U5	Burundi	EI7BMB + 9U5D - 22nd Feb 2002 (12:13)	HB9	Switzerland	EI5FK + HB9AOF - 17/5/90 (Time?)
9V	Singapore	EI6IZ + 9V1JA - 25th Oct 2001 (10:07)	HB0	Liechtenstein	EI5FK + HB0/ON4ANT - 4/8/91 (Time?) Active 90+91
9X5	Rwanda	?	HC	Ecuador	EI5FK + HC2FG - 26th Dec 1988 (Time?)
9Y4	Trinidad & Tobago	EI5FK + 9Y4VU - 18/11/89 (Time?)	HC8	Galapagos Is.	EI3IO + HC8N - 19th Nov 2001 (14:15)
A22	Botswana	EI5FK + A22BW - 4th Oct 1991 (Time?)	HH	Haiti	EI5FK + HH7PV - 12/11/89 (Time?)
A4	Oman	EI3IO + A45XR - 17th Jun 2001 (19:45)	HI	Dominican Rep.	EI5FK + HI8I - 12th Nov 1989 (Time?)
A6	U.A.E.	EI2JD + A61AH - 19th Jul 2003 (11:39)	HK	Colombia	EI5FK + HK4SAN - 30/12/01 (12:26)
BG	China	EI3IO + BG7OH - 12th Nov 2001 (11:14)	HP	Panama	EI3IO + HP2CWB - 18/11/01 (13:16)
C3	Andorra	EI7GL + C31HK - 4th Jun 1993	HR	Honduras	?
C5	The Gambia	EI7GL + C56/DL7CM - 3/3/01 (15:42) QRV 1980	HV	Vatican	EI3EBB + HV4NAC - 9th Jun 1994 Active 90+91+16/7/93
C6	Bahamas	EI3IO + C6AGN - 26th Dec 2001 (14:46)	HZ	Saudi Arabia	EI4VWY + HZ1MD - 12/8/01 (13:30)
CE	Chile	?	I	Italy	EI5FK + I5MXX - 20th Apr 1990 (14:22) Valid since 10/3/90
CN	Morocco	EI7GL + CN2BM - 29th May 1992 (18:18)	IS0	Sardinia	EI7GL + I2ADN/IM0 - 27/7/91 (19:11)
CO	Cuba	EI3IO + CO2OJ - 25th Dec 2001 (13:40)	J37	Grenada	?
CP	Bolivia	?			
CT	Portugal	EI5FK + CR2LN - 6th May 1989 (Time?) Valid since 1/3/86			

J52	Guinea-Bissau	EI5FK + J52US - 28th Dec 1988 (Time?)	T9	Bosnia-Herzegovina	EI7GL + T97M - 19th Jun 1998 (08:32)
J87	St. Vincent	EI5FK + J87AB - 21st Jun 2000 (Time?)			Valid as 4N4 15/10/91 to 11/5/93.
JA	Japan	EI3IO + JA6JKD - 25/10/02 (11.03)			12/5/93 on =T9
		Worked via Scatter Path at 90 Deg	TA	Turkey	EI5FK + TA5ZA - 29th May 1992 (19:11)
JW	Svalbard	EI3IO + JW/DL3NRV - 25/07/00 (18.38)	TF	Iceland	EI5FK + TF3EJ - 4th Jun 1990 (Time?)
JX	Jan Mayen	EI3CZ + JX7DFA - 29th Jul 1996 (11:28)	TG	Guatemala	EI5FK + TG9AJR - 22nd Nov 2001 (14:03)
JY	Jordan	EI7GL + JY7SIX - 2nd Jun 1994	TI	Costa Rica	EI5FK + TI2KD - 18th Nov 1989 (Time?)
K	USA	EI2W + W2JTE - 27th Oct 1957	TK	Corsica	EI5FK + TK/PA0ERA - 27/7/89 (Time?)
KG4	Guantanamo Bay	?	TL8	Central African Rep.	?
KL7	Alaska	?	TR8	Gabon	EI5FK + TR8CA - 25th Oct 1989 (Time?)
KP2	US Virgin Is.	EI2W + KP2??? - Nov/Dec 1979	TT8	Chad	EI5FK + TT8JE - 29th Jun 2001 (10:53)
KP4	Puerto Rico	EI2W + KP4??? - Nov/Dec 1979	TU	Ivory Coast	EI5FK + TU2OJ - 5th Apr 2000 (Time?)
LA	Norway	EI0RTS + LA1K - 27th Jun 1985	TZ	Mali	EI5FK + TZ6VV - 26th May 1999 (19:49)
LU	Argentina	EI5FK + LU7DZ - 1st Apr 1989 (Time?)	UA2F	Kaliningrad	EI5FK + UZ2FK - 28th Jun 1992 (20:29)
LX	Luxembourg	EI5FK + LX1JX - 16th Jun 1989 (Time?)	UK	Uzbekistan	EI3IO + UK9AA - 26th Oct 2001 (08:05)
		Valid since 2/3/90?	UN	Kazakhstan	EI3EBB + UN3G - 30th May 2000 (16:50)
LY	Lithuania	EI7GL + LY/DJ1OJ/P - 10th Aug 1996	UR/UX	Ukraine	EI7GL + UX0FF - 19th Jun 1995 (20:01)
		(09:52) QRV end 1991	V2	Antigua & Barbuda	EI5FK + V29OA - 27th Dec 1989 (Time?)
LZ	Bulgaria	EI3EBB + LZ1DP - 16th May 1999 (16:21)	V31	Belize	?
OA	Peru	EI5FK + OA4DJW - 25/11/01 (14:03)	V47	St. Kitts & Nevis	EI3EBB + V47KV - 1st Jul 1996 (19:40)
OD5	Lebanon	EI7GL + OD5RAK - 17th Jun 1998 (08:47)	V51/ZS3	Namibia	EI5FK + ZS3E - 7th Mar 1989 (Time?)
		Valid since Summer 91. QRV Jan 92	VE	Canada	EI2W + VE3AIU - 2nd Nov 1957
OE	Austria	EI5FK + OE6LOG - 14th May 1990	VK	Australia	EI6AS + VK8ZLX - 12th Oct 1989 (08:50)
		(16:00) Valid since 1/2/90	VP2E	Anguilla	?
OH	Finland	EI5FK + OH1AYQ - 14/3/89 (Time?)	VP2V	British Virgin Is.	EI5FK + VP2V/W6JKV - 4/7/00 (21:41)
OH0	Aland Is.	EI5FK + OH0BT - 5th Jun 1990 (Time?)	VP5	Turks & Caicos Is.	EI3IO + VP5/K5CM - 16/11/01 (14:06)
OJ0	Market Reef	EI3EBB + OJ0/DL5IO - 13th Jun 1997	VP9	Bermuda	EI3IO + VP9GE - 8th Jul 2003 (12:30)
		(17:37) Active 89 + 90 + Oct 92	VR2	Hong Kong	EI6IZ + VR2LC - 25th Oct 2001 (10:26)
OK	Czechoslovakia	EI5FK + OK2ZZ - 3rd Jan 1992	VU	India	EI7GL + VU2ZAP - 29th Oct 2001 (13:30)
		Valid 15/12/91 to 31/12/92	XE	Mexico	EI2W + XE1PFE - 16th Nov 1957
OK	Czech Rep.	EI7GL + OK1DIG - 12th Jul 1993 (17:34)	XU	Cambodia	EI3IO + XU7ABW - 3rd Nov 2001 (10:09)
		Valid from 1/1/93	XW	Laos	EI3IO + XW0X - 3rd Nov 2001 (09:57)
OM	Slovak Rep.	EI7GL + OM3ID - 19th Jul 1993	XT	Burkina Faso	EI3IO + XT2WP - 20th Nov 2001 (09:54)
		Valid from 1/1/93	XX9	Macao	?
ON	Belgium	EI5FK + ON1CAK - 19th May 1990 (1138)	YA	Afghanistan	EI3IO + YA4F - 16th Jun 2003 (18:13)
		Valid since 8/2/90	YC	Indonesia	?
OX	Greenland	EI7GL + OX2K - 29th May 2000 (22:03)	YL	Latvia	EI2EFB + YL/ES9C - ?? Jul 1992
OY	Faroe Is.	EI5FK + OY9JD - 4th Aug 1991 (Time?)	YN	Nicaragua	?
OZ	Denmark	EI5FK + OZ1FDH - 8th Jan 1990 (23:28)	YO	Romania	EI7GL + YO4CIS - 6th Jun 1998 (10:38)
		Valid since 3/1/90	YS	El Salvador	EI6IZ + YS1RR - 30th Oct 2001 (13:58)
P4	Aruba	EI3IO + P43JB - 27th Dec 2001 (12:37)	YU	Yugoslavia	EI5FK + YU3EA - 21st Jun 1991 (Time?)
		EI5FK + P49MR - 27th Dec 2001 (12:37)			Valid since 14/6/91.
PA	Netherlands	EI9Q + PA3DOL - 4th Apr 1988 (17:15)			All YU stn's between 14/6/91 and 26/6/91.
PJ2/9	Neth. Antilles	EI8HZ + PJ2MI - 27th Dec 2001 (12:24)	YV5	Venezuela	Only YU1 or YU7 after 26/6/91
PJ7	St.Maarten,Saba	EI5FK + PJ7/W6JKV - 23/11/91 (Time?)	Z2	Zimbabwe	EI5FK + YV1DIG - 26th Dec 2000 (12:47)
PY0F	Fernando de Noronha	EI4IX + PY0FF - 5th Nov 2000 (11:05)	Z32	Macedonia	EI5FK + Z23JO - 8th Aug 1989 (Time?)
PY	Brazil	EI5FK + PY5CC - 5th Apr 1991 (12:37)			EI7GL + Z32BU - 22nd Jun 1994 (18:50)
PZ	Suriname	EI5FK + PZ1AP - 9th Dec 1989 (Time?)			Valid since 8/9/91
R1MV/4J1	Malaj Vysotskij Is.	? Active May 91. No EI's worked	ZA	Albania	EI5FK + ZA/N7BHC - 26/5/00 (21:40)
RA	European Russia	EI7GL + RA3TES - 18th Jun 1994	ZB2	Gibraltar	EI5FK + ZB2EO - 25th May 1990 (Time?)
		Valid since 15/5/94	ZC4	UK Cyprus Bases	EI5FK + ZC4MK - 29th Oct 1989 (Time?)
RA9	Asiatic Russia	EI3IO + RX9FM - 27th Jan 2002 (09:48)	ZD7	St. Helena	EI5FK + ZD7VC - 28th May 2000 (18:00)
S0	Western Sahara	EI7IX + S01HA - 21st July 2003 (19:03)	ZD8	Ascension Is.	EI5FK + ZD8LII - 22nd Feb 1992 (Time?)
S5	Slovenia	EI5FK + YU3AN (S57A) - 16th Jun 1991	ZF	Cayman Is.	EI5FK + ZF1RC - 12th Nov 1989 (13:27)
		(10:19) (YU or S5?) Valid since 26/6/91	ZP	Paraguay	?
S9	Sao Tome & Principe	EI5FK + S92DX - 1st Dec 2000 (11:58)	ZS	South Africa	EI5FK + ZS6WB - 26th Feb 1989 (11:56)
SM	Sweden	EI5FK + SM7BAE - 14/3/89 (Time??)			
SP	Poland	EI5FK + 3Z4PAR - 6th Jun 1992 (17:23)			
SU	Egypt	EI5FK + SU1SK - 3rd Nov 2000 (Time?)			
SV	Greece	EI4EY + SV1AB - 13th Jul 1989 (17:42)			
SV5	Dodecanese	EI7GL + SV5TS - 17th Jun 1994			
SV9	Crete	EI3EBB + SV9ANJ - 6th Jun 1995			
T7	San Marino	EI5FK + T77C - 27th May 1989 (Time?)			
		QRV 1990			
			If you know of any earlier or unclaimed EI Firsts, then please e-mail me at ei7gl@yahoo.co.uk		



Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

We are now well into the current contest season and the two biggest events, the CQWW SSB and CW contests were well supported by EI stations. Also over by the time you read this will be the ARRL 160m CW and the ARRL 10m tests.

A nice little contest on CW is the Croatian event on the 20/21st of December and top band enthusiasts have the Stew Perry contest on the 27/28th of December.

The next one of note happens on the last weekend in January and this was won twice by EI7M operated by John EI8IR. This is of course the UBA SSB contest and it would be nice to see another EI station taking the honours.

The UBA CW event takes place on the last weekend in February.

Another one of the big ones is the ARRL CW contest on the 21/22nd of February. We certainly have a geographic advantage in this one and we live in hope to see a top European entry from EI. Second place has been achieved twice in the recent past.

Unfortunately the IRTS AGM clashes with the ARRL SSB Contest on the first weekend in March and we know of at least three serious multi-single entries being planned for this one.

The East Cork Group should be taking part as usual with a new location, South Dublin Radio Club are planning to operate from Co. Kildare and a serious entry is expected from the McLoughlin station in Co. Wexford.

Hopefully we may have one or two more to make the competition exciting.

Congratulations to my fellow EI7M members Neil EI3JE, Jim EI8GS and John EI8IR on a wonderful achievement in the CQWW SSB Top Band Contest earlier this year. Operating as EI7M, they finished in top spot in Europe and second in the World. See page 5 for photographs.

The club scene in EI at the moment is looking a bit slack.

Why not make a commitment to get involved in one or more of the field days in 2004.

If you need help or advice, please ask. Why not slot in a talk on field day in your club programme after Christmas?

IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day 2003

Results

Open Section.

	23cms	70cms	2m	4m	6m	Points
EI9E/p						
QSOs	20	73	308	8	323	562,995
EI7T/p						
QSOs	0	16	125	3	155	236,971

Restricted Section

	QSOs	Points
EI7DAR/p	106	27,820
EI5CRC/p	66	26,866
EI4GRC/p	31	7,695

Teams

EI9E/p:	EI2FG, EI3JE, EI6BT, EI6GF, EI7FJ, EI8IR.
EI7T/p	EI2IT, EI2JB, EI3ENB, EI5JF, EI6FOB
EI7DAR/p	EI2HX, EI2JD, MI5AHG
EI5CRC/p	EI1CS, EI4IS, EI4JF, EI5GM, EI6JA
EI4GRC/p	EI2II, EI3ER, EI8HJ, EI9HI

Autumn Counties Contest 2003

Results

		QTH	Points	QSOs	Cntys
High Power Fixed					
1.	EI2HI Hugh O'Donnell	CK	2,156	53	14
2.	EI4CF Niall Foley	GY	2,086	32	14
High Power Portable					
1.	EI7T/p Tipperary ARG	KK	4,386	56	17
2.	EI2SBC Shannon Basin RC	RN	2,628	33	18
Low Power Fixed					
1	EI7HT Tom McGrath	DD	910	19	10
Low Power Portable					
1	EI4HS John Kelly	CW	3,640	51	14
2	EI2WRC South Eastern ARG	WX	3,472	53	14
3	GI0RQK Colin Williamson	AM	990	17	11
4	EI9FVB Declan Horan	CK	192	14	6
FM Only					
1	EI7GY Joe Ryan	LS	3,510	38	18
2	EI4JL Mick Gorman	WW	3,024	33	18
3	EI7TRG (EI2JB)	LS	2,040	28	16
4	EI8IU Brain Canning	RN	1,624	27	14
5	EI6IW John Edgeworth	TY	1,455	31	15

Wireless Institute of Australia Welcome to HF QSO Party

On New Year's Day 2004 Australian radio amateurs will gain access to the High Frequency (HF) bands using licences that don't require the passing of Morse code telegraphy tests.

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) invites the world's amateur radio fraternity to join an on-air celebration of this special occasion.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has been campaigning for more than three years to have code tests removed as a licence requirement to operate on amateur bands below 30 MHz, and for Australia this will happen on the 1st of January, 2004.

To celebrate the event, there will be a "WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party" beginning at 0001 Australian Eastern Daylight Time and conclude at 2400 UTC on New Year's Day - a total of 35 hours.

The VK radio amateurs appearing on HF bands for the first time can be identified by three-letter VK callsign suffixes that begin with the letters H, T, U, X, Y and Z. (for example VK2Z**, VK4T**, etc.)

Official WIA amateur stations will be on air to join the HF QSO Party and these have two-letter callsign suffixes "WI" or three letter suffixes starting with "WI" (for example VK3WI).

Further information may be obtained by e-mail to: Jim Linton, VK3PC, "WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party" Organiser at hfqsoparty@wiavic.org.au.

73 from Ernest Hocking, VK1LK, WIA President."

EI5GM Third in EU in UBA SSB Test

Congratulations to Jeremy EI5GM who made a brave effort to recapture the EEC Trophy in this years UBA SSB test.

This was won twice in the past by John Barry EI8IR.

Jeremy was only three QSOs adrift of the winner IK6SNQ and actually had two more multipliers but the average QSO points let him down.

Working Belgian stations is the main aim in one and you get 10 points for ON stations, 3 points for EEC station and only 1 point for all others.

Ingo EI/DH5DT/P finished a very respectable 13th place in the 20m single band section.

Next year the UBA SSB contest will be held on January 31st/February 1st and the CW leg will be on February 28/29th.

Contest Calendar

December 2003

5/7th	2200-1600	ARRL 160m Contest	CW
6/7th	1800-1800	TOPS Activity Contest 80m	CW
13/14th	0000-23559	ARRL 10m Contest	CW/SSB
19th	2100-2300	Russian 160m Contest	CW/SSB
20th	0000-2359	OK DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
20/21st	1400-1400	Croatian CW Contest	CW
20/21st	1600-1600	International Naval Activity	CW/SSB
27th	0000-2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest	CW
27/28th	1500-1500	Stew Perry 160m Distance Challenge	CW

January 2004

3rd	2000-2300	EUCW 160m Contest	CW
4th	0400-0700	EUCW 160m Contest	CW
17th	1200-2000	LZ Open Contest	CW
17/18th	1200-1200	Hungarian DX Contest	CW/SSB
24/25th	0000-2359	CQ 160m Contest	CW
24/25th	0600-1800	REF Contest	CW
24/25th	1200-1200	BARTG RTTY Sprint Contest	RTTY
31/1st	1300-1300	UBA DX Contest	SSB

February 2004

14//15th	0000-2400	CQ/RJ WW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY
14/15th	1200-1200	Dutch PACC Contest	
14/15th	2100-0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
21/22nd	0000-2400	ARRL DX Contest	CW

Contesting on a Budget

Articles are published from time to time in some of the subscription magazines, but I felt that the people who really WERE on a budget probably wouldn't take out subscriptions.

So, I have therefore created a number of forums on my website aimed at the guys without the big towers and the latest rigs, under the general title 'Homebrew Hams - Forums For Those Who Like To Do Things For Themselves'. There are sections for Contesting, Antennas, Towers, and other areas of discussion.

There are also specific areas for Irish Contesting, and AREN, the Amateur Radio Emergency Network in Ireland, moderated by John Ketch EI2GN

The forums are not designed to act in competition to any of the more established ones, rather, to act as a place where you can ask questions and leave tips that others will browse through. Ever come up with a neat idea that you want to share with other testers ? Here's the place to do it.

Ever wanted to ask a basic question but felt nervous when amongst the big guns ? Visit <http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/forums>

I do hope the 'big guns' will visit from time to time - this is the place your next QSO might come from !

Here's the good bit - there's no advertising, and no popups !

73s Tim EI8IC



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IC-718	HF TCVR	€725	£588	MFJ 945 Antenna Tuner	€179	£144
				MFJ 890 Beacon Receiver	€ in stock	
IC-910	VHF/UHF TCVR	€1480	£1200	Yaesu 2M handie-used-	€150 good condx	
UX-910	1200Mhz Module	€350	£286	Yaesu FT 230R UHF-used	€130 good condx	
IC-2100H	VHF 2m TCVR	€277	£225	Drake TR7 HF TCVR	€400 good condx	
IC-T3H	VHF handie	€185	£150			
IC-PRC100	RX	€277	£225	Racal Signal Generator 9800	€1000 used	
IC-R5	RX	€198	£162			
IC-R10	RX	€367	£298	Tennadyne Log Periodic		
IC-R75	RX	€798	£645	T6 T8 & T10	€ in stock	
ICR8500	RX	€1540	£1248	Ameritron Lineras	€ in stock	
				Create Rotators	€ in stock	
				Rig Blaster Plus	€ in stock	

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Squares Table 2003

Callsign	6m	4m	2m	70cm	23cm	Total
EI8JK	243	0	87	17	5	352
EI2JD	318	2	29	1	0	350
EI7BMB	267	0	29	0	0	296
EI5FK	100	1	134	46	0	281
EI3IO	255	15	1	1	0	272
EI7IX	205	1	1	0	0	207
EI3IX	164	2	7	2	0	175
EI3EBB	137	0	10	2	0	149
EI7GL	48	10	24	4	0	86
EI2IV	0	0	66	0	0	66
EI2HI	0	4	23	17	0	44
EI7IR	0	0	29	0	0	29
EI7IW	0	0	16	2	0	18
EI7FAB	3	3	7	2	0	15

New entries and updates for 2003 to
Joe EI3IX joe_fadden@yahoo.com

Members

For Sale: Explorer HF Amplifier in good condition. Covers all bands 80 - 10m. Uses 2 x 3-500 Eimac valves.
Price €70
Phone Brendan on 087-2508651

For Sale: Yaesu FT890 HF Transceiver, ... €1,000.00
Watson 20 Amp Power Supply ... €100.00
MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner 11 .. €100.00
President Lincoln 26-29 MHz. Boxed ... €250.00
Bearcat 220XLT. As new ... €200.00
Yupiteru MVT-7100 €250.00
Watson FC-130 Frequency Counter. As new in box ... €140.00
Two Yaesu FTC-4703 UHF Transceivers €40.00
Ring Anthony on 087-9709799.

For Sale: Equipment of the late EI8CV:
IC 728 HF tcvr. €500;
Yaesu FT 200 HF tcvr. €200;
Yaesu 225R 2m. Base Station €450;
Trio 9R - 58DS Communications rcvr. €80;
Sony 201D Broadcast rcvr. €80;
Sommerkamp FT708R 70cms Handheld €100;
Yupiteru MVT 7100 Scanner €150;
ICOM IC2E 2m. Handheld €50;
ICOM IC - R2 Handheld €50;
AOR AR2001 Communications rcvr. (25 to 550 MHz) €150;
Daiwa PS304 PSU €100.
Phone Fergus at (01) 8336838 or e-mail fergus@dublin.com

Amateur Radio Lecture

As part of Science Week Ireland 2003, there was a lecture/demonstration, titled HF Radio - Modes and Codes?, by Colm, EI0CT, at 1900 hrs on Tuesday November the 11th in the Hotel and Catering Theatre, Athlone Institute of Technology.